Parade
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FAMILIES ARE THE SAME NO MATTER WHERE YOU'RE FROM

RAY Romano

On his Italian roots, doing stand-up with the greats and that time Robert De Niro kissed him on the cheek

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WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

RACHEL WEISZ

The Constant Gardener star, 53, next takes on the six-episode psychosexual thriller ***Dead Ringers*** **(April 21 on Prime Video)**, which is a modern take on David Cronenberg's 1988 classic film. The limited series follows the lives of codependent twin doctors Elliot and Beverly Mantle (Weisz plays both roles) at the top of their professions but with murky medical ethics and highly dysfunctional private lives. The sisters start to unravel under the weight of their obsession with each other and with their career ambitions.

It was your idea to gender swap this from the film starring Jeremy Irons. What do Elliot and Beverly bring to the story that men would not? The idea came to me when I was looking for material I could act in. I was thinking about relationships between sisters, and thought of that film. I suppose everything changes by the fact that they're women. Also, nothing. They're just women. Their jobs are different. They're obstetricians [rather than gynecologists]. They're delivering babies, which is very different than the original film.

There are several graphic birthing scenes with lots of blood and gore. Were there real midwives and doctors on set? Yes, we had real midwives and ob-gyns on set. There were experts there all the time to support us and direct us if something was going wrong in the OR. We actually had real OR nurses doing C-sections with us, so we had a lot of experts there, and I shadowed some obstetricians and watched some births as part of my research.

Are you squeamish? I didn't feel squeamish at all because I was imagining myself in the skin of an obstetrician and they deliver babies, sometimes five in one day. So, for them it was as ordinary as this conversation is between you and me. We're just doing our job and they were just doing their job. I think we were interested in showing it for that reason and also because it's just not something that's often done on screen. In fact, I would say hardly ever and it's how we all got here. It's a miraculous moment and we were interested in showing it.

Were there special challenges in taking on this dual role, especially when you have to play both sisters in the same day? The two roles came from Alice Birch's magnificent, extraordinarily brilliant writing. She wrote two women who were massively different from each other psychologically in their relationship to pleasure and in their career choices. Elliot wants to break new ground scientifically and is interested in fertility, whereas Beverly wants to open a birthing center and is really only interested in delivering babies and making the birthing process a beautiful, bespoke service for all women irrespective of their wealth or their access to health care. Beverly's a big dreamer.

I had these two characters on the page that were so beautifully defined, and they fed my imagination, and then I had to go away and shut the door of my office and learn the lines and find the characters. We would often begin shooting with Elliot because she's more on the front foot. She leads the pace of the scene more, and then I'd go to hair and makeup and wardrobe and change into Beverly. Whilst I was doing that, on the set, the crew were making the change to Beverly, so the lighting, the camera, the VFX [visual effects], the motion control, the props, the set dressing, the

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DEAD RINGERS
(APRIL 21 ON PRIME VIDEO)

DANIELE VENTURELLI/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

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Meet Rachel Weisz's "dead ringers": obstetricians Elliot and Beverly Mantle.

ADs [assistant directors]—it was a whole group change, and the other actors as well.

The way that Elliot ate so voraciously really stood out. She enjoyed eating so much and so often that it was a surprise that they were the same size. I know. I think Elliot vibrates at such a high energy; her metabolism is just through the roof. She's throbbing all the time. She's hungry for food, sex, breaking boundaries and scientific research that pushes through the ethical boundaries that have been set up by the law. She's a powerhouse. She's starving all the time and very easily bored. She has a very simple relationship to what she wants. She just wants it, she gets it and then she's on to the next thing. That would be amazing in some ways to be like that, but she's a lot. Beverly is more careful and restrained and has a much more complicated relationship to pleasure. She almost doesn't allow herself that, so they're both very, very different to each other, and very dependent on each other.

The birthing center was this bright star in the series, but would you say the rest is dark and campy? Some of that tone is in the original film, but [we wanted] the show to have drama, dark humor, playfulness, mischief, a love story, some horror beats and some quite operatic over-the-top set pieces. We were hoping that the show would be a pretty wild and exciting ride. So, it begins in a very grounded place. The first episode makes a case for why a birthing center, why maternal health could be improved upon. You meet patients who have unhappy results in their maternal health care. Then it becomes heightened and operatic, and we use the term "near-fi" instead of sci-fi, because some of the science is really just within arm's reach, so it contains a lot of different tones. P

The Parade Don't Miss List

Here's what's on our radar for the week ahead. Go to *Parade.com/entertainment* for more.

GUY RITCHIE'S THE COVENANT

(APRIL 21 IN THEATERS)

Jake Gyllenhaal, who donned combat gear for *Jarhead*, once again enlists in the military for this new Guy Ritchie drama. This time out, he plays Sergeant John Kinley, who on his last tour of duty in Afghanistan is saved by local interpreter Ahmed (**Dar Salim**), who risks his own life to carry an injured John across miles of grueling terrain to safety. Later, back in the U.S., Kinley learns Ahmed is pursued by the Taliban. When U.S. authorities refuse to respond, Kinley returns to the war-torn country to rescue the man who risked his life for him. The Los Angeles-born actor, 42, tends to keep his private life private (in spite of that Taylor Swift song about him), but here are some lesser-known facts.

◀ He was just 11 years old when he made his big-screen debut opposite Billy Crystal in ***City Slickers***.

On his 13th birthday, his family volunteered at a homeless shelter and then had his bar mitzvah celebration there.

◀ ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** is Gyllenhaal's favorite novel. In fact, he named his dogs Atticus and Boo Radley.

Gyllenhaal is godfather to his *Brokeback Mountain* costars Heath Ledger and **Michelle Williams**' daughter Matilda. His own godfather is Paul Newman. ▶

He first worked with sister **Maggie Gyllenhaal** in *Donnie Darko*. He was 19 and she was 23. ▶

He successfully completed actor Tom Holland's "impossible" challenge of putting on a shirt while doing a handstand.

Gyllenhaal and **Adam Levine**, Maroon 5's lead singer, have been friends since kindergarten.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: AMAZON PRIME VIDEO; STX FILMS/ENTERTAINMENT PICTURES/ZUMAPRESS.COM/ALAMY; GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES, SHLOMI PINTO/GETTY IMAGES, DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY; ARCHIVIO GBB/ALAMY

THE DIPLOMAT

(APRIL 20 ON NETFLIX)

The spy drama *The Americans*, starring **Keri Russell** in her Emmy-nominated role as Russian agent Elizabeth Jennings, ended in 2018. Five years later, she's returning with a new political thriller, *The Diplomat*, which pulled her reluctantly back to TV.

"I just couldn't stop thinking about it," says Russell, 47, who, after the long shoots on *The Americans*, was looking more to films like her recent turn in *Cocaine Bear* as a career path. "So, I was like, this is impossible—and I'm going to do it."

In *The Diplomat*, Russell plays Kate Wyler, the new U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Originally slated to head to a crisis zone in Afghanistan—she's great in a crisis zone—Wyler instead finds herself thrown into the political deep end in London as she tries to make allies, diffuse international crises and survive her marriage to political golden boy Hal Wyler (Rufus Sewell).

"It's a really fun world to live in," Russell says. "I would love to do it again."

LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING

(APRIL 21 IN THEATERS AND DIGITAL RELEASE)

Early on in the documentary *Little Richard: I Am Everything*, one of his former bandmates shares that Elvis Presley came backstage one night and told **Little Richard** that he was the real King of Rock 'n' Roll. The film goes on to prove just that, using an abundance of archival footage that takes viewers into Little Richard's complicated inner world—that of a Black queer man making his way through the origins of the music genre.

In interviews with family, musicians and Black and queer scholars, the film reveals how Little Richard (Richard Wayne Penniman) created an art form for ultimate self-expression, and there is testimony from several famous faces to back that up.

"The first song that you love—that your parents hate—is the beginning of the soundtrack of your life," says filmmaker John Waters. "In my case, it was 'Lucille.' Little Richard gave me the fuel to rebel."

And Tom Jones talks about how Little Richard's appearance in *The Girl Can't Help It* was inspirational, saying, "The film came to Britain. It was so different than anything I'd seen or heard, giving me more confidence that that's what I wanted to do. There was the Big Five: Fats Domino, Chuck Berry, Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis—and Little Richard was the strongest."

Tony- and Emmy-winning actor Billy Porter shares how Little Richard affects him even today, saying, "The reason why I'm finally able as a Black queer man to show up and do anything I want is because of him."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ALEX BAILEY/NETFLIX; FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; GREG GAYNE/PEACOCK; A24; APPLE TV+; MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

STAR WATCH

BILL HADER & HENRY WINKLER are back in the final season of *Barry*. (April 16 on HBO)

BETTY GILPIN The *GLOW* star headlines the new science-fiction drama series *Mrs. Davis*. (April 20 on Peacock)

JOAQUIN PHOENIX plays the paranoid Beau in the black comedy *Beau Is Afraid*. (April 21 in theaters)

ANA DE ARMAS The *Knives Out* and *Blonde* star can be seen with **Chris Evans** in the romantic, action-adventure film *Ghosted*. (April 21 on Apple TV+)

You can find Judy Blume books in bookstores and online and watch Judy Blume Forever *on Prime Video.*

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF JUDY BLUME

With a new documentary and book-to-movie adaptation, Blume is as relevant as ever. BY NICOLE PAJER

"We must, we must, we must increase our bust." Recite that line, and millions of women—young and old—will get the reference. It's from *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, a 1970 book by Judy Blume that clearly captured an 11-year-old's coming-of-age angst and confusion about religion and puberty (the movie based on the book hits theaters April 28). Blume and her young adult and adult books (29 in all! More than 90 million sold!) have made a huge difference in the lives of so many (boys and men too) that it's no surprise that her fans are eagerly awaiting the release of ***Judy Blume Forever*, which premieres on Prime Video on April 21st**. The documentary about her life and influence explores how a New Jersey housewife became an author who dared to delve into taboo topics around growing bodies, teenage sexuality, relationships and religion.

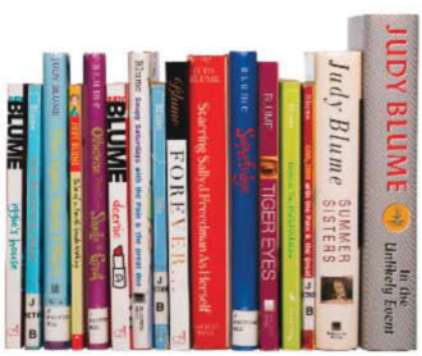
"I grew up as a good girl with a bad girl lurking inside," Blume, who is 85, says in the documentary. "So by the time I started to write, I really had a lot to get out. I could be fearless in my writing in a way that maybe I wasn't always in my life."

And fearless she was, writing about menstruation (*Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*), bullying and self-esteem (*Blubber*), Asperger's (the *Fudge* books), depression and grief (*Tiger Eyes*) and so much more. When Blume's daughter asked her to write a book about teenagers who fall in love and "do it" but don't come to some tragic ending, she wrote *Forever*, a book that actress Kathryn Hahn told *Parade* was much-beloved contraband when she was growing up.

"I remember a very dog-eared and highlighted copy of *Forever* we had to hide from the nuns. All the girls in my catholic high school would pass it around," Hahn said." It was very informative and formative, because we

"I don't think Judy Blume wrote her books to be timeless. I think she wrote them to be timely, and they were so timely that they became timeless."

—*author Jason Reynolds*



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF PRIME VIDEO; ROY ROCHLIN/GETTY IMAGES; CHRIS SO/TORONTO STAR VIA GETTY IMAGES

"Everything I learned about sex or about crushes, I learned from Judy."

—writer-actor Molly Ringwald

"She allowed young women to be as complicated and as funny and as messy as we are."

—writer-actor Lena Dunham

didn't have many other ways to talk about sex. So thank you, Judy Blume."

When people would ask Blume when she was going to write "a real book," meaning for adults, Blume responded with "I am writing real books!" But she tackled more adult themes in *Wifey* (about shaking off the reins of conventional wifehood) and in *Summer Sisters* (about friendship and betrayal).

CELEBRATING JUDY

Judy Blume Forever was the brainchild of director Davina Pardo, who was inspired on a road trip with her children five years ago while listening to audiobooks. "Judy's voice filled the car," she recalls. "It felt very visceral seeing my kids giggle at *Fudge* and then hearing it again for the first time in so long." From there, Pardo set out to find out more about the author's life, realizing the power of the woman behind so many people's favorite teenage books. "My filmmaker curiosity took over and I decided to reach out to Judy," she says.

Blume, who has retired from writing and runs a bookstore with her husband, George Cooper, was hesitant at first. "She was tempted, but not sure. She loved her life as a bookseller in Key West," says Pardo. After co-director Leah Wolchok and Imagine Docs signed on, Blume was ready to open up her past to the world. "I knew once I decided to do it, I'd have to be honest about my life and my work. Otherwise, there was no point to it," Blume told *Parade*.

The 97-minute documentary explores Blume's writerly beginnings and her tremendous fandom. "She's had almost a singular impact on readers," Pardo says. "Her relationship with readers is unique among living writers today." And that's the part of the documentary—where she's emotionally going through boxes and boxes of mail and treating each letter with tenderness—that Blume likes best: "I love it when the focus is on the kids who wrote to me over the years," she says. "Kids opened up to me in a way that they couldn't with their parents. And I would answer."

DAVINA PARDO AND LEAH WOLCHOK

The documentary, which features author Jason Reynolds, writer-actors Lena Dunham and Molly Ringwald and others talking about Blume's influence, also dives into Blume's never-ending fight against book censorship, standing up to conservative Pat Buchanan on *Crossfire* in 1984 and her work with the National Coalition Against Censorship. (Many of Blume's books are still banned in communities and libraries today.)

The filmmakers, who recently saw *Judy Blume Forever* with the author and a live audience at The Sundance Film Festival, were blown away by the response. "Judy comes to the film with such an emotional openness, and you can't help but respond in that way as an audience member," says Wolchok.

Seeing her life play out on screen, Blume told *Parade*, was "both weird and wonderful. It's an honor, of course, and the directors have done such a good job, but it's not easy for me to watch," she admits. But for her fans, the documentary is a gift, just like her books were—and are. Thank you, Judy Blume.

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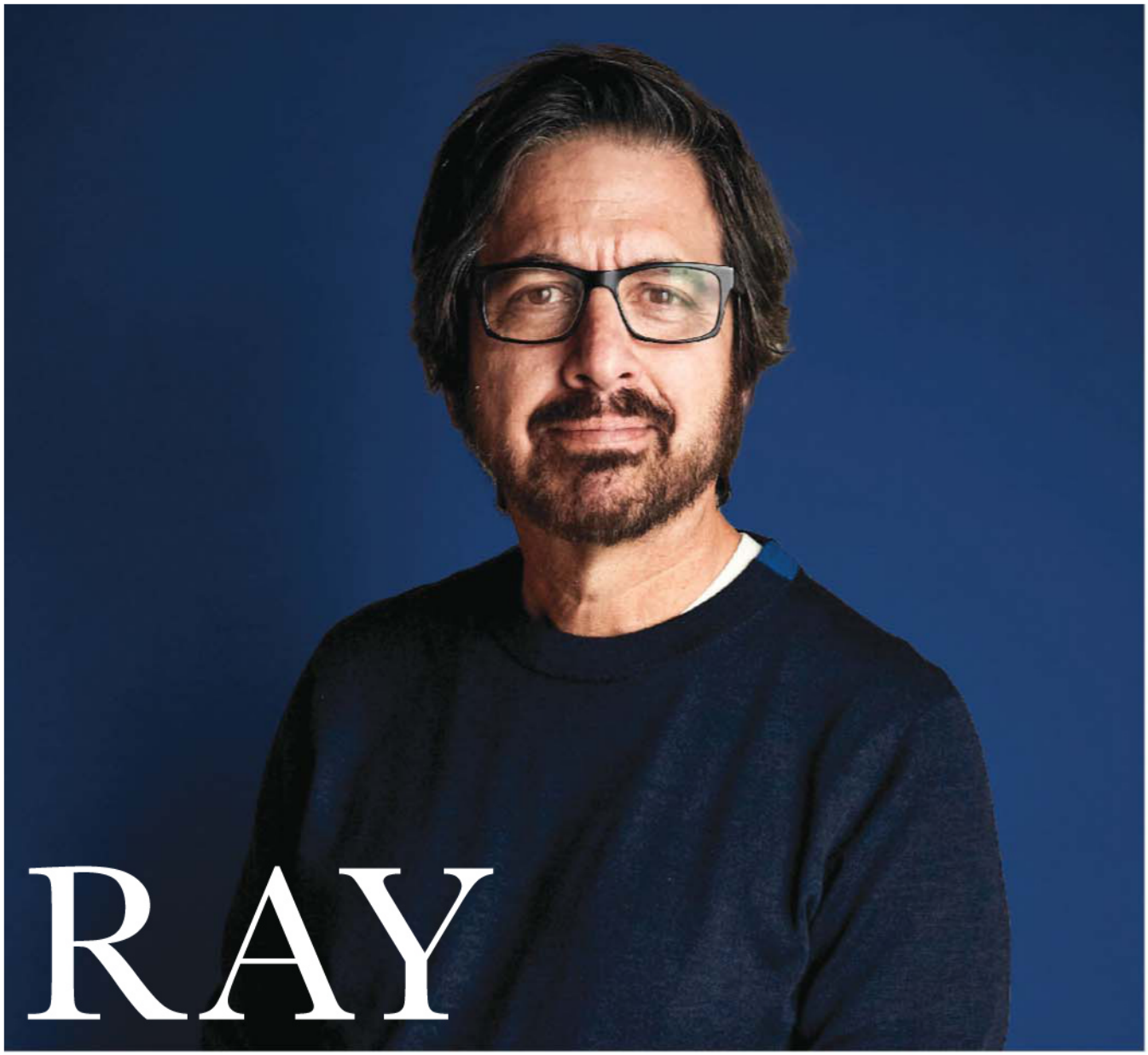

RAY ROMANO

"Families are the same no matter where you're from."

On sticking to his Italian roots for his new movie, *Somewhere in Queens*, doing stand-up with the greats and that time Robert De Niro kissed him on the cheek.

BY MARA REINSTEIN

When a stranger starts a conversation with the requisite "How are you?," there's a 99 percent chance that the other person will answer with some version of "Pretty good, thanks," and keep it moving.

Ray Romano falls into the one percent.

"I got a little bit of a head cold," he answers. Thus begins a tangent in which the actor explains how he recently caught COVID for the very first time and received the news in the makeup room of his next movie that stars Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum that happens to be "really fun and kind of a love story and it's for Apple and they spared no expense" and he took the medication that tasted like metal and tested negative seven days later but then his immunity was knocked down a little and now he's sick again and "everybody in my family has it too."

It's a testament to Romano's well-honed talent that he can relay all of the above in such an effortlessly amusing way that every word drips with low-key, relatable humor. This same set of skills, after all, is a big reason why his 1996-2005 sitcom *Everybody Loves Raymond*—which chronicled a New York sportswriter dealing with his wife, brother and pushy parents—remains universally beloved. The former stand-up comic even brought those traits to his subsequent more-dramatic roles in *Men of a Certain Age, Parenthood* and the films *The Big Sick* and *The Irishman*.

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COVER BY AARON RICHTER/GETTY IMAGES FOR PIZZA HUT; OPPOSITE BY TAYLOR JEWELL/BY/INVISION/AP

Romano with his *Somewhere in Queens* family, including Laurie Metcalf, who plays his wife.

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But his latest offering is his most personal yet. Romano co-wrote and directed the film he also stars in, *Somewhere in Queens* (in theaters April 21), a lived-in dramedy about a close-knit Italian *famiglia* trying to make it work in the working-class New York City borough. Romano plays Leo, a proud husband to breast-cancer survivor Angela (Laurie Metcalf) and ultra-proud father to his introverted-but-talented high-school basketball-playing son (Jacob Ward). When his boy gets an opportunity to shoot hoops in college, Leo goes to unusual and unexpected lengths to make sure he takes his shot.

Like his alter ego, Romano is a native of Queens. His wife of 35 years, Anna, is a breast-cancer survivor, and they have four kids. He, too, adored watching his son on his varsity basketball team—perhaps a little too much. "After my son's last game, I was tearing up a little," he recalls. "It inspired me to make the story about a guy who felt kind of invisible in his life and had a sense of being somebody because of his son. What if it was all coming to an end? That was the jumping-off point."

Though he hones in on a specific culture and lifestyle, "the goal was to appeal to everyone because it's about family," he says. "And we all can bond over these dynamics. They're all the same no matter where you're from."

Calling in from somewhere in Manhattan, Romano shares his favorite stories with *Parade*.

So, exactly how autobiographical is this movie? Did you meddle in your son's future like Leo did? My son Joe is 6 foot 5 and was the star of his basketball team in L.A. I loved going to the games. And if I'm being honest, I also enjoyed the attention that I got from it. It's kind of sad if you think about it because I'm a celebrity from TV and I needed more attention. I lived vicariously through him. But he wasn't going to play in college, unlike my son in the movie.

And did you have immigrant Italian parents? Mine were

ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

second-generation. My wife's family came right over from Italy. And for 35 years, I experienced that rich tradition of family and celebrating and eating, and I took in their standards and what they believed in. I wanted to write for that universe.

Is it true you lived at home until you were 29? That's a movie, too. That was my life! I lived in my mom's house and moved out the day after I got married. And let me tell you, I have a 25-year-old son still living at the house in L.A. and another who's 30 and moving out. But I have quite a different house than the one I grew up in. For that one, we had one bathroom and [the house] was about 1,600 square feet. I shared it with my mom, dad and two brothers. My kids have a theater, 11 bathrooms, a pool and tennis courts. I don't think they want to go anywhere, ever.

Why weren't you in a rush to leave? The Italian mother is not quick to kick you out of the house. And I really didn't find my direction in life until I started doing comedy when I was about 25. I worked at a bank, where I met my wife. Before that, I delivered futons for my friend's company. I delivered to college kids, and I delivered to Cher. Well, she came in and picked it up. We put it in the trunk of her car.

Describe the stand-up comedy scene in the '90s. Was it a dogfight to succeed? My class was, like, Chris Rock, Louis C.K., Denis Leary, Jon Stewart and Dave Chappelle. I'd see them night in and night out at the clubs in New York City. I don't know if I'm being naive, but I didn't find it to be competitive. When Dave got a movie, we were excited about it. The only time I felt threatened was when I had to follow somebody in a club. Like if I'm following Chris Rock, it's like, *Oh my God this is going to be hard.*

Did you enjoy that life or were you eyeing a bigger prize, like a *Seinfeld*? Yeah, I could see [Jerry] Seinfeld and Tim Allen and Roseanne [Barr] were getting development deals. Was I thinking of that? I can't say I wasn't. I was happy doing stand-up but it was not a great living. The gigs came in spurts. And I was on the road while my wife was at home in Queens with three little kids. There were times where I remember having to borrow money from my dad to pay bills

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ROLE PLAY

After 11 years doing stand-up comedy, an appearance on *The David Letterman Show* helped Romano get a development deal. **1.** He was nominated for an Emmy 16 times for *Everybody Loves Raymond* (1996-2005). He won for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series in 2002 and for Outstanding Comedy Series in 2003 and 2005. **2.** He voiced Manfred, the woolly mammoth in five *Ice Age* films (2002-2016). **3.** He starred in *Men of a Certain Age* (2009-2011), which he co-created. **4.** He played photographer Hank Rizzoli in *Parenthood* (2012-2015). **5.** He was dad Terry Gardner in *The Big Sick* (2017). **6.** He was Teamster lawyer Bill Bufalino in Martin Scorsese's *The Irishman* (2019). Next up: *Project Artemis* with Scarlett Johansson, Woody Harrelson and Channing Tatum.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES; DANNY FELD/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; NICOLE RIVELLI/LIONSGATE/EVERETT; MOVIESTORE COLLECTION LTD/ALAMY; CINEMATIC COLLECTION/ALAMY; RGR COLLECTION/ALAMY

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because I was having a slow month.

Will you tell the *NewsRadio* story? So, I'm 36 and wondering if it's ever going to happen. And this audition came up for an NBC sitcom starring Phil Hartman. I knew it would get on the air. And I got it. But at the table read, I could feel that the magic I had at the audition wasn't quite the same. And then on day one at the rehearsal, I felt it even less. By the second day, I was in over my head. Now I'm in L.A., and my wife is in New York with the kids. My phone rings at 6:30 AM and it's my manager telling me the old line: "They're going in another direction." I got fired, and Joe Rogan took my place.

It couldn't have been easy to recover from that. The timing worked out. About three months later, I happened to do my first spot for David Letterman's show. I did five minutes. His producer, Rob Burnett, called me at my house in Queens on a Saturday afternoon. He said that Dave loved my act and wanted to sign me to do a development deal. He goes, "Don't sign with anyone else!" And I said, "There *is* no one else." His production company put out *Everybody Loves Raymond.*

In retrospect, do you think *Raymond* has received the respect it deserves? Well, *Raymond* is not hipster and young and sexy. It's not *Friends* or *Seinfeld.* It's a little more of the family values thing. But I actually think people appreciate it now in a way they didn't even five years ago. And I'm a glass-half-empty guy who always finds the negative! But it holds up.

How can you tell if a sitcom holds up? Look at *The Honeymooners.* That holds up and it's just two couples. There's something about the acting and the writing and it holds up through time even though cultures change. The basic core of the family stays the same. I'm not comparing our show to *The Honeymooners,* but that's basically what our show was about. Maybe that's helped it stand the test of time.

Where do you go after a signature sitcom with your name on it ends? I knew I didn't want to do another traditional four-camera sitcom. *Raymond* was my legacy in that genre. I was drawn to something with a little more dramatic substance to it. Maybe not an intense straight drama, but I wanted to try and test myself. But having someone cast me in that proved to be difficult because when you see someone for nine years in a role it's hard to see them in anything else. I ended up co-creating *Men of a Certain Age.* After that, I called Jason

RAY HAS HIS SAY

All-time favorite movie It has to be the first ***Rocky*** [1976].

Favorite Pizza Place in Queens Lillian Pizzeria "in my hometown of Forest Hills."

Last TV binge ***The White Lotus***

Book on the Nightstand *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's* Killer by James L. Swanson. I'm glad I'm reading so I have an answer!

First Comedy Album I don't remember the name, but it was **Cheech and Chong**.

Hobby Playing poker. You've got to be willing to go all-in or they'll push you around.

Favorite Early Celebrity Encounter I delivered a futon to **Larry David** in the '80s. This was before *Seinfeld*, but I knew him from a TV show he did called *Fridays*. I asked him, "What happened with *Fridays*?" And he goes, "Eh."

Favorite New York Sports Team Baseball is the Yankees and football is the **Jets**. I grew up in Queens, which is Mets country, but my brother and cousin were Yankees fans and they were older so I just followed them.

Secret Talent I can name any capital of any country in the world. I'm not kidding. But it doesn't mean I'm smart.

FROM TOP: UNITED ARCHIVES VIA GETTY IMAGES; HBO MAX; RICHARD E. AARON/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES/DISNEY/GETTY IMAGES; AL PEREIRA/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

Katims, who was in charge of *Parenthood*. I told him I loved his show and, by the way, I'm unemployed now. I was on *Parenthood* for three years. People saw me again in a different role.

How did you end up working with Martin Scorsese? I put myself on tape for an HBO drama called *Vinyl*, which he [co]-created. The crazy thing is that Martin Scorsese sees the tape and says to his team, "I'm interested in this guy, Ray Romano. Who is he?" He had never seen or heard of me. He had never seen an episode of anything that I'd done.

That doesn't seem possible. Well, he's Martin Scorsese. He doesn't watch sitcom TV! But it ended up being kind of like a blessing because he just looked at my tapes and liked what he saw and he didn't have to erase my character from his mind. So, I got into his Rolodex, and then he cast me in [2019's] *The Irishman*.

For *The Irishman*, you costarred with Al Pacino, De Niro and Joe Pesci. Let's hear your best anecdote. That was super-frightening. I knew Joe Pesci a little bit because we belong to the same golf club. But acting with De Niro and Pacino was totally surreal. The funny thing happened on day two, which was my first scene with De Niro. I'm the lawyer for the Teamsters, and he's on trial. So we're going back and forth, and he's sitting across from me. Scorsese is right behind me. In my head, I'm going, *Oh sh—t. I'm doing a one-on-one scene with De Niro.* It takes about three hours to film, and the scene ends, and it's a wrap. I don't need anyone to pat me on the back, but nobody said anything. Everyone just walked out. I called my wife and said, "I don't know if I'm pulling it off."

Given that you've been married to Anna since 1987, do you have any pearls of relationship wisdom? Oh, boy. Well, this came from one of my many therapists I've had. And his quote was, "Pretend you're not a narcissist." What he means is pay attention. Get out of yourself once in a while and make sure you show them that they matter. Not that I don't do that, but when you're in this business, you're sometimes so wrapped up in yourself that you've got to remember it.

Then what happened? We're all staying at this hotel in Long Island. I go to check in and De Niro walks up. This is a few hours after we wrapped, right? And I hadn't had a conversation with him. All I hear is "Ray?" and I look and it's him. I could only say, "Hey." He doesn't say a word. He just walks over to me, puts his hand on my shoulder, kisses me on the check and walks away. You know, yes, I was happy. But then I started thinking, *Well, this is a mafia movie. A kiss sometimes isn't good because it means you're the next to go!*

How do you feel about releasing a movie in theaters in 2023? People are going to watch it in their house, that's fine. But the reward of making a movie for me is being able to sit in a theater with a roomful of strangers and feel the bond. The communal experience is why I hope theaters don't go away. And stadium-style seating needs to go. If you can't see anyone and you're watching a comedy, you're laughing in a vacuum.

Did you inspire any of your four kids to follow in your footsteps? They're trying to figure it out. My daughter [Alexandra, 32] works for a PR firm that handles celebrity chefs and restaurants. My twin boys [Matthew and Gregory, 30] are working on a documentary, so they kind of want to get in there. And my younger son [Joe, 25] has mentioned wanting to take acting classes but he hasn't really pulled the trigger yet. But they're attracted to it.

Is that a good thing? You know, it depends. I didn't have any kind of passion until I discovered stand-up. So, it's a good thing that they're driven and ambitious and dedicated. But it's a tough business. There are a lot of rejections. As a father, that scares me a little. One of them has even mentioned stand-up. It's scary but I think I'd rather have them do it—even if they fail and/or flail, at least they're out there.

In fairness, you've done well for a guy who lived at home until he was 29. The only reason why I say I lived in my mom's house until I was 29 is because I ended up doing OK. Otherwise I'd be embarrassed! P

Want more laughs?
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for 120 funny movies.

AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Live Smart

EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

Taking action to preserve and protect our planet isn't just a once-a-year sort of thing. Here are some people and places that have made a commitment to fostering real change every day of the year.

BY DILLON DODSON

LIVE GREENER
Babcock Ranch, Fla.

Dubbed "the hometown of tomorrow," this built-from-scratch community in Southwest Florida is America's first solar-powered town. Homes in the 18,000-acre area are built to Florida Green Building Coalition standards and residents follow community-wide standards for energy efficiency, conservation and low-impact landscaping. With electric and phone lines buried, Babcock Ranch was barely affected by Hurricane Maria, which devastated Fort Meyers, Fla., 12 miles away. Go to ***babcockranch.com*** for more information.

BAG BETTER
New Jersey

Since May 2022, it's against the law for retail and grocery stores and food service businesses in this state to offer customers single-use plastic carryout bags and polystyrene foam food-service products. Depending on store size, paper or reusable bags can be offered or sold. Other states that have banned single-use plastic bags include California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York and Vermont. Go to ***earthday.org*** for ways to celebrate on April 22 and invest in the planet in your state.

TRAVEL SMARTER
Madison, Wis.

With more than 240 miles of bike paths, Madison is a surprisingly bike-friendly town, even in the winter (on snow days the bike lanes get plowed too). The city also has plenty of bike rideshare programs, which may explain why the percentage of bike commuters in Madison is up more than 50 percent in the past 10 years. Go to ***peopleforbikes.org*** for help making your city bike-friendly.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ISTOCK (3); GREATER MADISON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU; BABCOCK RANCH

Go to ***Parade.com/earth-day-activities*** for an earth-saving idea from every state in America.

CLIMATE CHAMPION
Henk Rogers
The most fascinating climate-change activist you'll ever meet.

Determined. If there's one word that comes to mind to describe Henk Rogers, that's it. It was true when he was a mover and shaker in the video game industry and it's true now as he works to make Hawaii—and the world—fully reliant on renewable energy.

If the name sounds familiar, think "Tetris." After creating 1984's "The Black Onyx" game in Japan, where he lived at the time, Dutch-born Rogers came across "Tetris," designed in the Soviet Union by software engineer Alexey Pajitnov. Rogers thought the addictive block-stacking game would be a perfect accompaniment to Nintendo's soon-to-be-a-hit Game Boy personal gaming device. He worked tirelessly to secure the rights and did, with Pajitnov's help, in such dramatic fashion that their adventure in the Soviet Union was turned into a fun action-thriller starring Taron Egerton (***Tetris*, streaming now on Apple TV+**). "It's crazy. It's cool," Rogers, 69, says about seeing part of his life story go Hollywood. "I've cried several times and seen the movie a bunch of times now, so it emotionally impacted me," he says.

What makes Rogers even more emotional? His mission to end the use of carbon-based fuel. His Blue Planet Foundation helped pass legislation to make Hawaii the first U.S. state to use 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. And his Blue Planet Energy company makes climate-friendly energy storage systems (batteries that won't catch on fire or cause disposal issues).

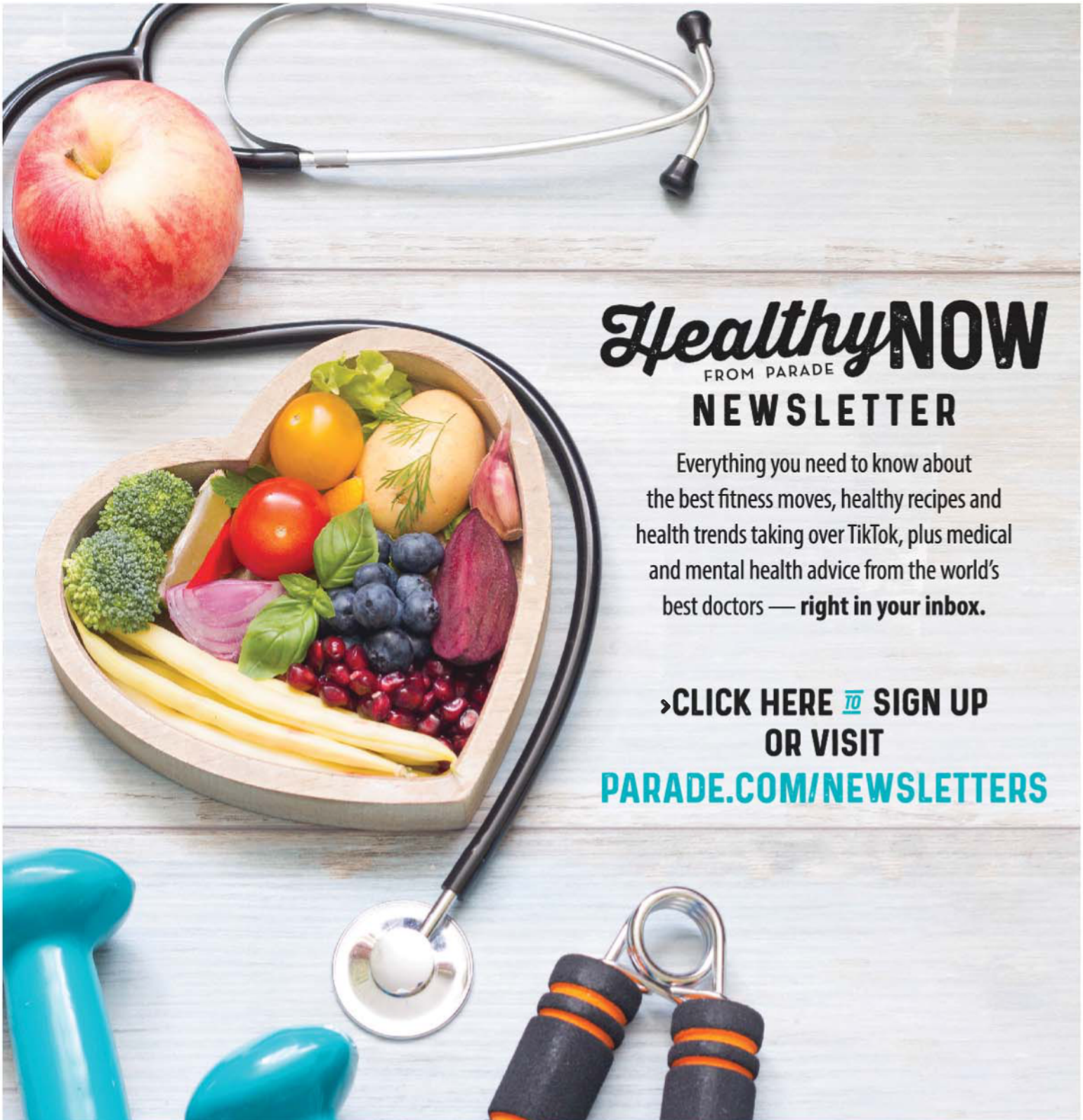
"In Hawaii, we already hit our 2030 goal of 40 percent renewable energy. Two territories and 21 other states have copied our legislation. But the rest of the world also needs to be done, so I started the Blue Planet Alliance based in New York," Rogers tells *Parade*. "We're trying to do the same thing for island countries—because they're similar to Hawaii—and eventually all countries in the world. So our goal is to have 100 percent renewable energy by 2045 and stop climate change—and we are completely confident that we're going to do this."

> "We need to act now to protect our planet and ensure a livable future for generations to come."
>
> —*Henk Rogers*

Why the year 2045? "It's the 100th anniversary of the United Nations," Rogers says. "What's better for the United Nations in their first 100 years than to fix climate change, an existential threat for humanity?"

What can *Parade* readers do? What's happening in Hawaii is going to happen everywhere, Rogers believes, so be prepared to embrace alternative forms of energy—from solar and wind to geothermal. Don't buy another internal combustion car. Ride your bike or take public transportation. Above all: open your mind. "I want people to have the mindset that it *is* going to happen," Rogers says. Instead of thinking that you won't be around when these climate-focused efforts kick in, be on the right side of history, he urges. "You have children and grandchildren. Can you please think about them? It's just not fair to bring them into the world and then trash the world." Go to ***blueplanetfoundation.org*** for more inspiration.

FROM TOP: RICK KERN/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; ISTOCK



HealthyNOW
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Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

Send questions to
marilyn@parade.com

Numbrix®

Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

25		21		3		5		9
27								11
33								77
37								71
39		41		57		63		69

For more Numbrix puzzles, go to *Parade.com/numbrix*.

My new car has a cool safety feature that displays a 360-degree view from somewhere above the car. I can see the top of the car from above, the road in front and behind the car, and the areas on both sides of it. How is this done? I know it's not from any kind of satellite image because it works even when I'm parked inside my garage.

—Jane Anderson, Cincinnati, Ohio

Slick, isn't it? The system works by seamlessly joining camera feeds from all around the car. They typically are located in the front grille, by the side-view mirrors and near the latch on the trunk or by the license plate. The camera lenses have extremely wide angles so their images can be stitched together easily to provide an all-around view.

But where is the camera that could possibly provide that birds-eye view? In fact, no camera is involved. Rather, the software adds a stock image of your car to the middle of the 360-degree view to help orient you to the placement of the car on the display.

These monitor systems are primarily intended as safety features, but they're great for helping to prevent scrapes and bumps. Even better are systems that provide audible warnings in case you're not paying close enough attention to the monitor.

Systems vary, and they may require some acquired skill to make the best use of them, but wow—they're just great.

CLASSIC ASK MARILYN

THE PET PUZZLE

JANUARY 21, 2007

Say that a pet hospital houses six dogs, five cats, four parrots, three turtles and two fish. Now call the dogs parrots, call the cats turtles, call the parrots fish, call the turtles dogs and call the fish cats. How many of which kinds of animals are housed in the pet hospital?

—Mark Schaper, South Bend, Ind.

THE WORD QUESTION

APRIL 27, 2003

Ronald Dodson from San Antonio, Tex., sent in this question 20 years ago: What word should come next in the following progression:

aid, nature, world, estate, column, sense, _____?

The choices are A. WATER B. MUSIC C. HEAVEN D. WELCOME

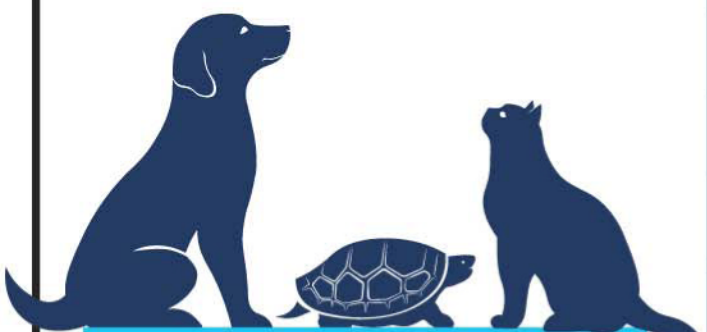
Find solutions to Marilyn's puzzles and this week's Numbrix on the next page!

Ask Marilyn
BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

SOLUTIONS

THE PET PUZZLE

No matter what you *call* the animals, there are still six dogs, five cats, four parrots, three turtles and two fish!



THE WORD QUESTION

The answer to what word comes next in this progression: aid, nature, world, estate, column, sense, _____ is **C. HEAVEN**

Once you think numerically, it's easy to figure out:
FIRST aid, SECOND nature, THIRD world, FOURTH estate, FIFTH column, SIXTH sense and SEVENTH heaven!

Numbrix®

April 16, 2023

25	24	21	20	3	4	5	8	9
26	23	22	19	2	1	6	7	10
27	28	29	18	15	14	13	12	11
32	31	30	17	16	81	80	79	78
33	34	47	48	49	50	75	76	77
36	35	46	53	52	51	74	73	72
37	44	45	54	59	60	65	66	71
38	43	42	55	58	61	64	67	70
39	40	41	56	57	62	63	68	69

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